

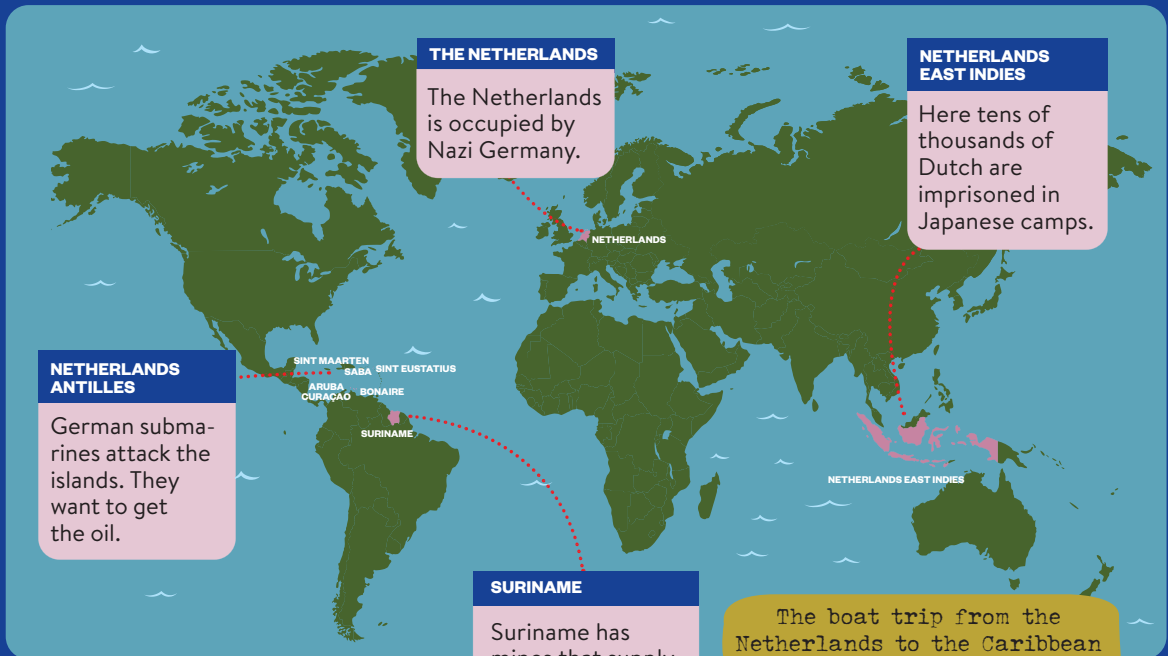
Caribbean
THINK
BOOK
for 4 and 5 May

 **Nationaal Comité**
4 en 5 mei



THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR



In 1940, the Kingdom of the Netherlands consisted of the Netherlands and the colonies of the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia), Suriname, and the Netherlands Antilles (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Saba, and Sint Eustatius).

The boat trip from the Netherlands to the Caribbean takes three weeks.

Think



Study the timeline on pages 8 through 13. Which parts of the kingdom are occupied during the Second World War?

Watch



Watch the video about the war in the Caribbean on tiny.cc/caribisch.







Reflecting on freedom

What does freedom mean to you? The more you think about it, the more aspects of freedom you will discover. You are free when you are allowed to think and believe whatever you want. When you are allowed to be yourself, learn new things, and get the opportunity to do what you think is important. When you do not have to be afraid that others who are stronger can hurt you. When you do not go hungry and have a place where you can feel at home.

Freedom is not something you can see or touch. Still, freedom is the most beautiful thing we have. We have fought hard for this during the Second

World War. The islands in the Caribbean played a very important role as well. People raised money and collected clothes to help the Netherlands. Curaçao and Aruba supplied fuel for the airplanes and tanks necessary for the battle field. And courageous young people, such as George Maduro from Curaçao, and Boy Ecury from Aruba, joined the resistance in the Netherlands and gave their lives for freedom.

That freedom belongs to you and all your classmates. Freedom belongs to the teachers, your parents, and also to me. We share our freedom and that also means: respecting the freedom of others. This way, we will remain free together!

King Willem-Alexander



This indicates you can do something (write, color, draw).



A critical thinking question. If you like, you can also write the answer down.



Type the link into your internet browser.

war

When a word is marked in red you can look up the meaning in the Glossary on page 71.

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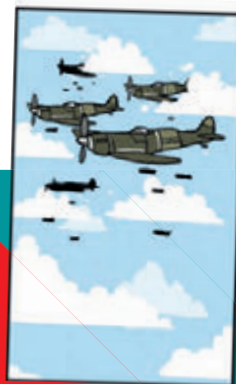
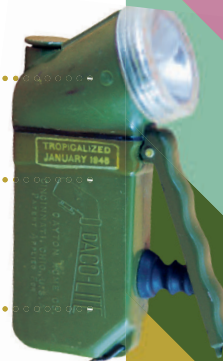
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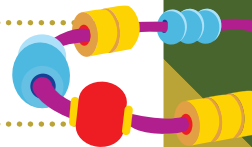
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MY THINK BOOK

This think book belongs to:

.....

In 1940, the Second World War started in the Netherlands and in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

How many years are there between your year of birth and 1940?

.....

I know or have heard of someone who experienced a war, namely ...

.....

.....

.....

I feel most free when I ...

.....

.....

.....

Draw something here that belongs to you.

For example something you really love.

What does freedom mean to you?

Draw, write or paste it below:

Remember

To commemorate means to remember something. For example, to remember someone who has died. Or to remember a sad event. Do you ever remember something or someone?

- ☐ Very often
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Almost never
- ☐ Never

How do you do that?

Draw or write it below.

Do you ever read or hear something about the Second World War?

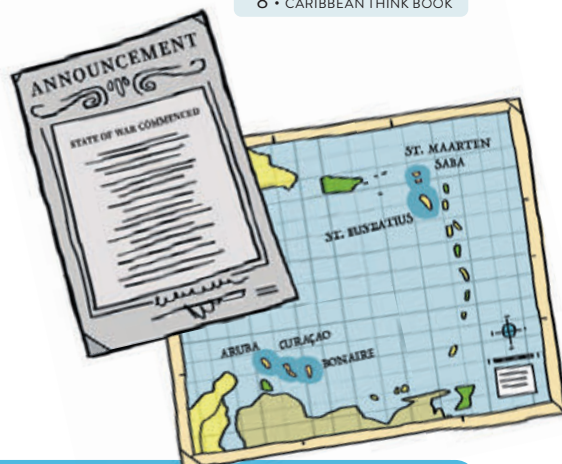
- ☐ Yes, I mainly hear stories from my family.
- ☐ Yes, I know the war mainly from the internet, television, and books.
- ☐ Yes, I know about the war from video games.
- ☐ No, I never hear anything about the war.

How I commemorate:



THE SECOND WORLD WAR

In 1933, Adolf Hitler's political party wins the elections in Germany. The members of that political party are called **Nazis**. Hitler wants to turn Germany into a big and powerful country. Germany is doing badly. Hitler (falsely) blames the Jews for everything. People who contradict him and the Nazis end up in jail or murdered. From 1933, Nazi Germany attacks countries in Europe, the Netherlands is also occupied. The Netherlands Antilles are not occupied, the conflict mainly takes place at sea.



10 May The German army invades the Netherlands. The Dutch army is able to stop the enemy for five days. Queen Wilhelmina flees to London, the capital of England. The Netherlands Antilles support the Dutch government and are officially at war.

14 May Nazi Germany bombs Rotterdam. The Netherlands surrenders the following day. The Netherlands is now occupied. There is no further contact between the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles.

1939

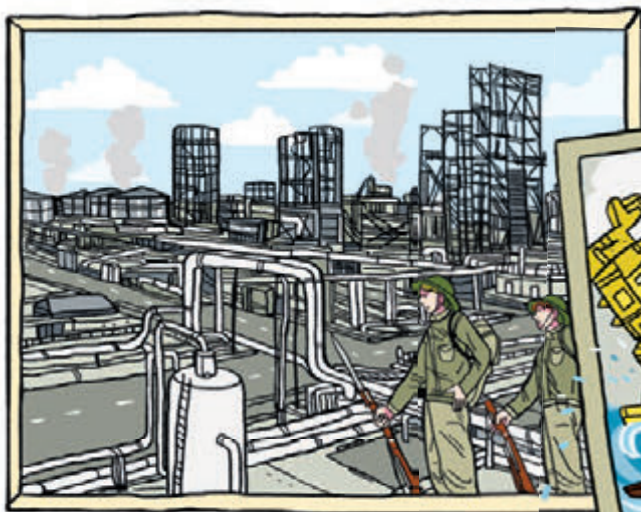
1 September Nazi Germany invades Poland. England and France declare war on Germany.



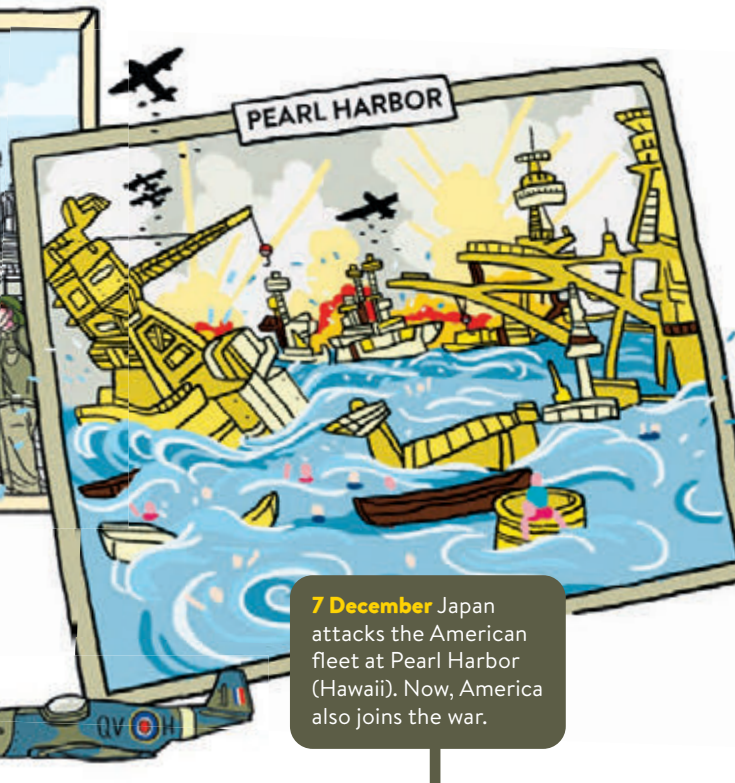
1940



10 May Some 127 Curaçao residents with a German or Austrian passport and 75 German Arubans are imprisoned in a camp on Bonaire. Members of the **NSB** are also arrested and German freighters are confiscated.



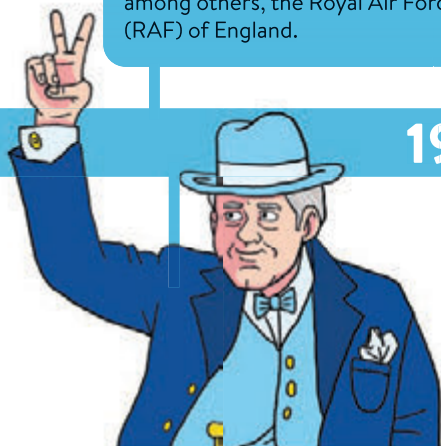
May to July Hundreds of English soldiers arrive on Aruba and Curaçao to protect the oil industry. Oil is important as fuel for the airplanes of, among others, the Royal Air Force (RAF) of England.



7 December Japan attacks the American fleet at Pearl Harbor (Hawaii). Now, America also joins the war.



1940



July Hitler wants England to surrender. The Germans bomb London. The English fight back hard. 'We shall never surrender', says Prime Minister Churchill.



Germany, Italy, and Japan agree to fight together. They are the Axis powers.

1941

22 June Hitler invades Russia. The German army quickly conquers much territory. But winter is coming and it is getting very cold. Due to the cold and the fighting with the Russian soldiers, the German army is halted at Moscow.





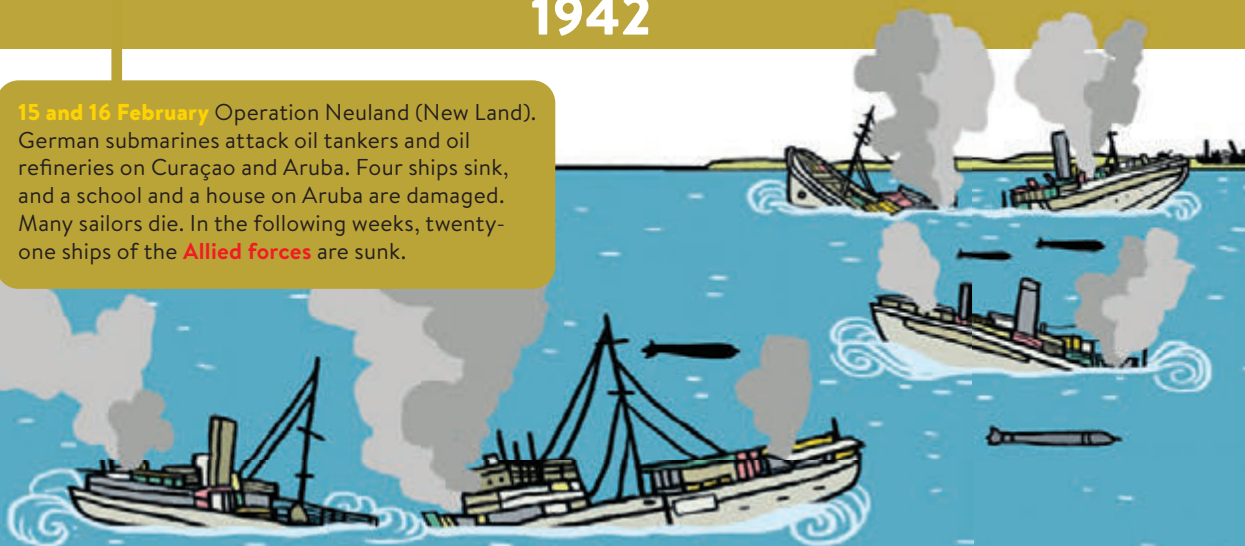
11 February American soldiers arrive in the Caribbean. They come to help the English soldiers protect the islands.



8 March In the Netherlands East Indies, the Royal Netherlands Indies Army surrenders. The Dutch colony in Asia is now occupied by Japan, an **ally** of Nazi Germany.

1942

15 and 16 February Operation Neuland (New Land). German submarines attack oil tankers and oil refineries on Curaçao and Aruba. Four ships sink, and a school and a house on Aruba are damaged. Many sailors die. In the following weeks, twenty-one ships of the **Allied forces** are sunk.





22 to 24 October Prince Bernhard, Queen Wilhelmina's son-in-law, visits Curaçao and Aruba. He is the first member of the Royal Family to visit the Antilles.

2 February The German army is defeated at the Russian city of Stalingrad. Almost a million Russian soldiers are killed or wounded.

September Germany stops its attacks outside of Europe. The Antilles do no longer have to fear war.



1942

October It is difficult to get food because of the war situation. People have money, but there is very little for sale. Grain, rice, and corn, and later also other food is distributed amongst the population.



1943

1943 Almost all countries in the world are somehow involved in the war.



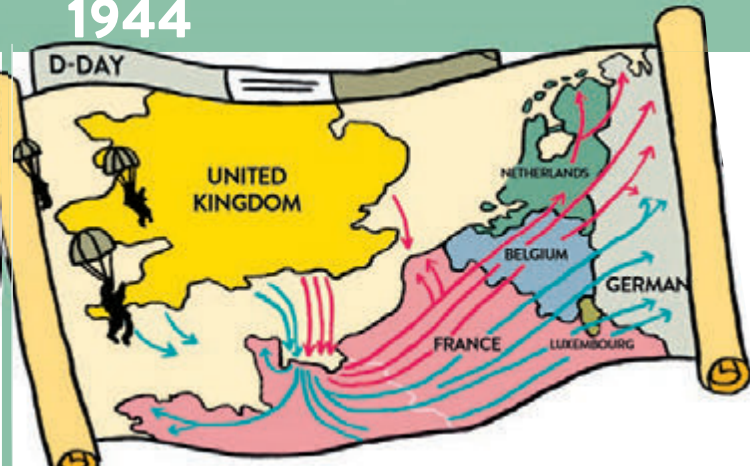
February and March Princess Juliana visits the Antilles. She visits Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, and Sint Maarten. She also circles above Saba and Sint Eustatius with her airplane.



December 1944 - January 1945
Major counter attack from Germany in the Ardennes in Belgium.

September Operation Market Garden: via Nijmegen and Arnhem in the east of the Netherlands, the Allied forces try to enter Germany. They are defeated near Arnhem, but the south of the Netherlands has been liberated.

1944



6 June D-Day: the **Allied forces** land on the coast of France. After heavy fighting, they move into Europe. The Russians defeat the Germans from the east.

March Start of the liberation of the north of the Netherlands.

27 January Liberation of Auschwitz in Poland, the largest extermination camp of the **Nazis**.

30 April Russian troops arrive in the German capital of Berlin. Hitler commits suicide. His soldiers continue fighting.

6 and 9 August The Americans drop atom bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians are killed or injured.

15 August Japan surrenders. The Second World War has now ended everywhere.

1945

5 May On the evening of 4 May, the Germans in North-western Europe surrender. On 5 May, there is a meeting in Wageningen between the Canadians and the Germans. On the islands of the Netherlands Antilles, the liberation of the Netherlands is celebrated with a huge party.

30 May The majority of American soldiers leave the Antilles to return home.



8 May The last soldiers of the German army surrender in France. On 8 May, the Germans sign a surrender agreement with Russia. All German soldiers now surrender. On 8 May, the war in Europe has come to an end.



LIFE CHANGES

A soldier guards the Lago oil refinery on Aruba.

A **refinery** is a type of factory where other products are made from crude oil. For example: petrol or motor oil.

The Nazis want to prevent the **Allied forces** from using oil from Curaçao and Aruba to fight them. They send submarines to attack oil tankers and refineries. French, English, and American soldiers come to protect the islands and the oil. In the meantime, the residents try to continue living normally. But everything changes.

GUARD THE OIL

Oil from the Caribbean region is very important during the Second World War. Without oil, the tanks in Europe cannot ride and the airplanes cannot fly. The refineries on Curaçao and Aruba increase their production of oil. Many people want to work in the oil industry, in the factory, or on a ship. However, working on an oil tanker is also dangerous. The **Nazis** attempt to sink the tankers with their submarines. Soldiers try to protect the ships and the islands.

Watch



José Dania tells about a torpedo on the beach that did not explode. Look what happened on tiny.cc/josedania



José Dania lives on Aruba. During the war, he was a member of the volunteer defence corps of Aruba and helped guard the Lago refinery.

'I was on duty at the Lago refinery. Early in the morning, around 6 o'clock, we heard a bang. We were all shocked. It was a torpedo that hit the quay. At that point, more **torpedoes** were fired. Some ended up on the ships, others on land.'



This torpedo did not explode. It is on the beach of Aruba.

Diane Henriquez was 6 years old when the war started.

‘When the alarm sounded, you had to hide under your school desk. My mother had made me a pouch containing a piece of eraser and some cotton balls. The cotton balls were used to protect your ears from the sound of the bomb. The eraser was used to hold between your teeth so that your teeth wouldn’t smash together.’



AN ERASER BETWEEN YOUR TEETH

For the people on the islands there is always the danger of German submarines bombing them. Diane’s school is near the sea.

Watch



Diane Henriquez was just a little girl when war broke out. She still remembers how scary it was. Watch her story on tiny.cc/dianehenriquez

IN THE DARK

The ‘blackout’ is necessary because then the Germans cannot see where to shoot at night. Without any lamps, it is very dark outside. Whoever still goes out on the streets, carries a flashlight.

Watch



Aruba also had a blackout. Carmelita Wever tells what happened when she took a bath and lit a small lamp. Watch her story on tiny.cc/carmelitaweever



Imelda Kroon lives on Curaçao.

‘Everything had to be darkened. That meant that a cloth had to be tied around all lamps. You had to sit right under the lamp to be able to see something and do your homework. Everywhere else it was dark. All street lights were off. The headlights of cars were painted blue with a one centimeter wide line left open in the middle so that other cars could see you. You saw nothing yourself.’

LETTER IN PIECES

All mail to and from the islands is opened. The **censors** read the text to make sure it does not contain any war secrets. They want to prevent the **Nazis** from occupying the islands as well.



Diane Henriquez's mother worked for the government.

'My mother helped out in the **censorship** department. There they read all letters that came to Curaçao. She had to identify all important information in the letters. Any war news in a letter was not allowed to be known, because there were people on the islands that could pass that news on to the Germans. So the censors cut out all those pieces of news. They knew what was in the letters, but were not allowed to talk about it.'

Watch



Catalina Lampe lives on Aruba. She tells how her house was shot at during the war. Watch her exciting story on tiny.cc/catalinalampe

Frank Hoyer, born on Curaçao, was 14 years old during the war.



‘We went to the movies. There were theaters: Cinelandia, Roxy, West End. It was a lot more lively on Curaçao because of all those soldiers on the island. The Americans often performed with their jazz bands. There was a party every weekend.’

Watch



Frank Hoyer had a nice childhood due to the arrival of the Americans, but he also saw the consequences of the war. He tells about it on tiny.cc/frankhoyer

Think



What event changed your life?

PARTIES AND FILMS

With the arrival of the soldiers, there is suddenly a lot more activity on the islands. There is more work because the army needs help. And the soldiers also buy their food and supplies on the island. They throw parties to relax. Especially young people love this. There are also American films in the theaters.



COMMEMORATE

HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

Every year on 4 May is National Commemoration Day. We commemorate (bring back to memory), the victims of the Second World War and of all wars and **peace operations** thereafter. What does it mean to commemorate and how do you do that?

This is on Curaçao. It is 4 May.

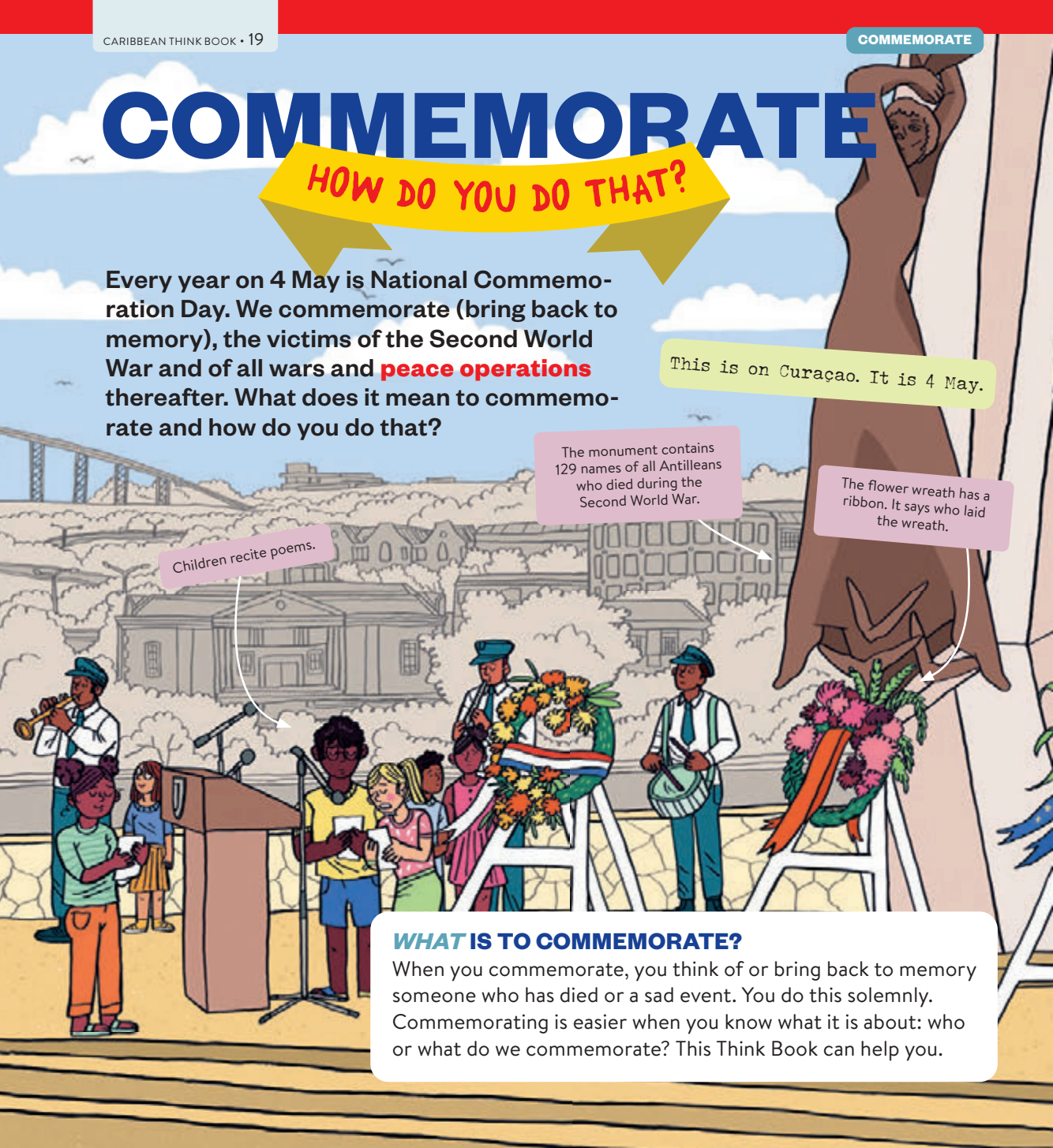
The monument contains 129 names of all Antilleans who died during the Second World War.

The flower wreath has a ribbon. It says who laid the wreath.

Children recite poems.

WHAT IS TO COMMEMORATE?

When you commemorate, you think of or bring back to memory someone who has died or a sad event. You do this solemnly. Commemorating is easier when you know what it is about: who or what do we commemorate? This Think Book can help you.



HOW DO WE COMMEMORATE?

At a commemoration, people come together to remember the victims or an event. Rituals are a part of the commemoration on 4 May. A ritual is something that you always do in the same manner.



Silence. We observe a two-minute silence when commemorating.



Wreath. We lay wreaths at a war monument.



Flag. The flag is hung at half-mast.



Poem. Someone recites a poem.

This is what I bring to a commemoration

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> candle | <input type="checkbox"/> I wear nice clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flower | <input type="checkbox"/> something else, namely |
| <input type="checkbox"/> poem | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hat | |

Can you also commemorate differently?

Of course. Commemorating is about showing you don't want to forget an important person or event. Write or draw below what else you can do to commemorate something or someone.

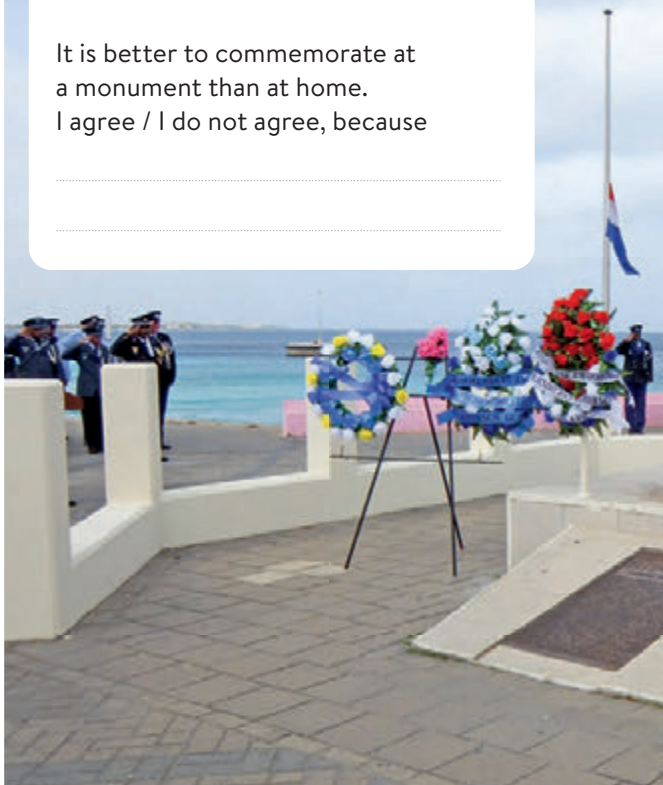
WHERE DO WE COMMEMORATE?

The National Commemoration is near the war monument of your island. Where is the **monument** on your island?

(Ask your teacher if you do not know.)

Take a look at the monument. What else would you like to know about it?

It is better to commemorate at a monument than at home.
I agree / I do not agree, because



WHY DO WE COMMEMORATE?

During the National Commemoration on 4 May we remember all war victims of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. These are people who died in the Second World War, or in wars and and **peace operations** there-after. On 4 May, we also reflect on living in freedom. That is quite normal for us, but for many other people in the world, it isn't.

The war monument on Bonaire.



WHEN DO WE COMMEMORATE?

We not only commemorate the Second World War, but also other important events such as the abolition of slavery.



The monument for the abolition of slavery on Curaçao.



WHO DO WE COMMEMORATE?

On 4 May, we commemorate all victims who fell in the Kingdom of the Netherlands during the Second World War. We also commemorate people who died during **peace operations** and other wars after the Second World War. Here are some faces of the victims we commemorate on 4 May.



* Among these war victims are about 160 Antilleans. In recent years, still more new names are being discovered. Most of them perished at sea in the Caribbean region. There were also Antillean victims in Europe.

COUNTING THE DEAD

It is very difficult to determine the exact number of victims of the Second World War. Therefore, these numbers are estimates.



RESISTANCE

*We commemorate the people who were taken prisoner and killed, because they showed **resistance** and stood up for the rights of others*

The Aruban **Boy Ecury** was a member of the resistance in the Netherlands. He was arrested and shot dead by the Nazis in 1944. He was 22 years old.



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

We commemorate the people who died due to acts of war, bombings, exhaustion, famine, and neglect.

Jopie Gerrits was three years old when his school in Nijmegen was bombed. His older sister survived, but Jopie didn't.

Think



How much is one hundred thousand? Can you think of an example to grasp the size of that number?


**MILITARY AND
MERCHANT STAFF**

We commemorate all military staff and **merchant staff** who died during the Second World War and after in war situations or peace operations. In the Caribbean, this is the largest group of victims.

Lieutenant-at-sea **Pieter Jooose** tried to dismantle a German **torpedo** on the beach of Aruba in February 1942. Jooose was seriously injured when the torpedo exploded. He died later in hospital, 29 years old.

Juan Cancio Coffi was a sailor from Bonaire. He died on 10 June 1942 when a German submarine sunk his ship. He was 26 years old.


**MILITARY AND
MERCHANT STAFF**

We commemorate the more than 100,000 Jews, **Roma and Sinti** who were persecuted and murdered in the concentration and extermination camps, for no other reason than being who they were.

Sinti-girl **Settela Steinbach** in the train that took her away to Auschwitz. She was murdered there in 1945. Her ten brothers and sisters did not survive the war either.


PERSECUTION

The Jewish **Marianne Reens** was murdered in **concentration camp** Auschwitz on her ninth birthday.


PERSECUTION

We commemorate all civilians who died in Asia during and directly after the Japanese **occupation**.

Elsje Bertling (9) died in a Japanese camp just days before the liberation. Here she is still a toddler, in the arms of her older sister Adri.


**CIVILIAN
CASUALTIES
ASIAN**


WHERE DO WE COMMEMORATE?

On all Caribbean islands within the Kingdom, the victims of the Second World War are commemorated on 4 May. Each island has its own war monument.



ARUBA Near the monument at the Adriaan Lacle Boulevard.



CURAÇAO The monument at the De Ruyterkade at Waaigat.



BONAIRE The monument opposite Wilhelminaplein.





SINT MAARTEN Wreath-laying at the monument on the C. Wathey Square.



SABA The commemoration at the monument in The Bottom.




SINT EUSTATIUS At the break of dawn, a trumpeter plays 'Taps' in Fort Oranje, at the monument with the names of the victims.



Think

What can children do during the commemoration on 4 May?

What are your thoughts on: **COMMEMORATING?**



He was so
courageous!
Would I be
that too?

I hope we'll
never be
in a war.

4 May. Arubans in the Netherlands lay a wreath for the Aruban resistance hero Boy Ecury on the **Waalsdorpervlakte near Scheveningen**, the place where he was killed by the Nazis.

What do you think of these statements? Do you agree or disagree? Write your answer on the dotted lines.



1 Commemorating a war is more important than celebrating freedom.

I agree/disagree because ...

.....

.....

.....

2 Telling stories about the Second World War is important.

I agree/disagree because ...

.....

.....

.....

3 Being silent for two minutes is long.

I agree/disagree because ...

.....

.....

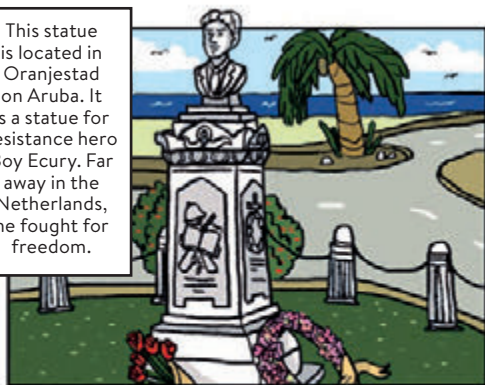
.....

**Compare your answers with those of a classmate.
Do you agree or disagree with each other and why?**

STAND UP FOR OTHERS

The COURAGEOUS ACTS of BOY ECURY

This statue is located in Oranjestad on Aruba. It is a statue for resistance hero Boy Ecury. Far away in the Netherlands, he fought for freedom.



Boy was born in Oranjestad on 23 April 1922. He was the seventh of thirteen children. Boy's father was a wealthy businessman.



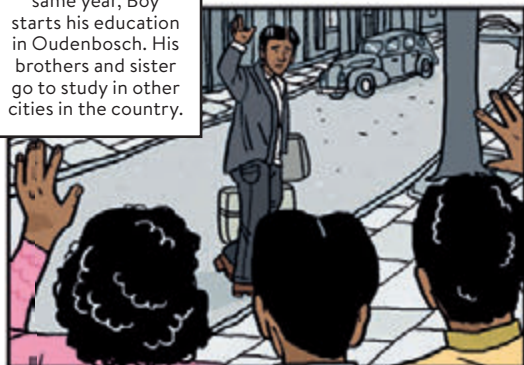
In July 1937, four Ecury children leave by boat for the Netherlands. Boy, Nicky, and Mimi go to school there. Brother Doe goes along to help them. They do not know yet that only three of them would ever return.



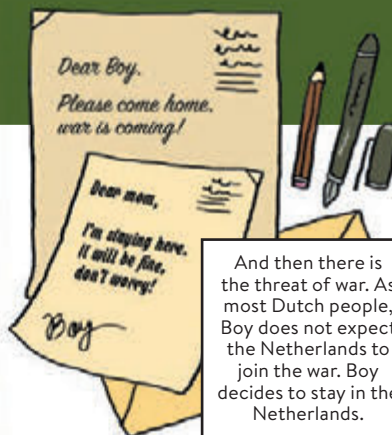
Boy and Nicky stay in Amsterdam. They love exploring and prefer bicycling in the Vondelpark.



In September that same year, Boy starts his education in Oudenbosch. His brothers and sister go to study in other cities in the country.



Boy studies to become an accountant.
But he finds it hard to sit still.



And then there is the threat of war. As most Dutch people, Boy does not expect the Netherlands to join the war. Boy decides to stay in the Netherlands.



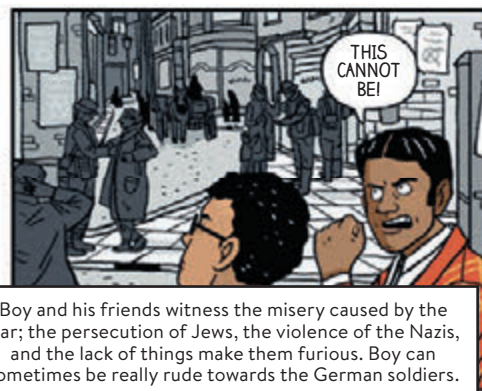
When the Germans invaded the Netherlands on 10 May 1940, nobody can leave anymore.



After the bombing of Rotterdam, Boy and his brother Nicky go take a look. They cycle 15 kilometers to see the destroyed city.



During the war, he meets Luís de Lannoy from Curaçao, his first real friend in the Netherlands. Because of their friendship, Boy often spends time in Tilburg where he meets other Antilleans.



Boy and his friends witness the misery caused by the war; the persecution of Jews, the violence of the Nazis, and the lack of things make them furious. Boy can sometimes be really rude towards the German soldiers.

Luis de Lannoy participates in resistance activities from the start. Boy helps him.



Boy joins a resistance group and sets fire to German trucks.



He also helps guide Allied pilots along the escape route to the south.



He raids houses where NSB-members gather and rips up the Tilburg-Boxtel railroad track.

In 1942, Boy needs to leave Tilburg. His dark skin makes him stand out among the white Dutch and it becomes too dangerous for him.



Boy goes into hiding in Oisterwijk, but he remains active in the resistance. His new resistance group operates from a hayloft of a farm.



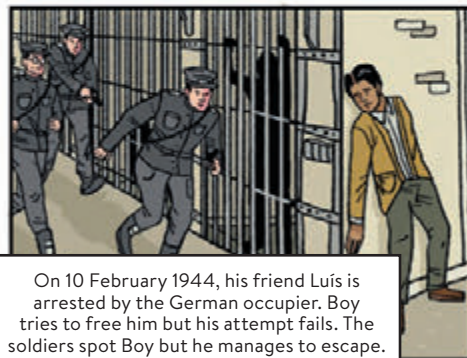
Boy is unstoppable. Despite the danger he wants to participate in as many missions as possible.



Early June 1944, Boy narrowly escapes the Germans.



He takes three pilots to a safe house. When they enter the street, they spot a couple of German squad cars. They get away quickly!



On 10 February 1944, his friend Luis is arrested by the German occupier. Boy tries to free him but his attempt fails. The soldiers spot Boy but he manages to escape.



Boy attracts too much attention in Oisterwijk and leaves for The Hague in 1944. He again joins a resistance group.



In September things go wrong. The group is in Rotterdam. When Boy is walking home one day after attending church, he is recognized.



During his interrogation, the Germans make Boy an offer. He can safely return to Aruba, if he gives them the names of the other members of his resistance group. Boy refuses.



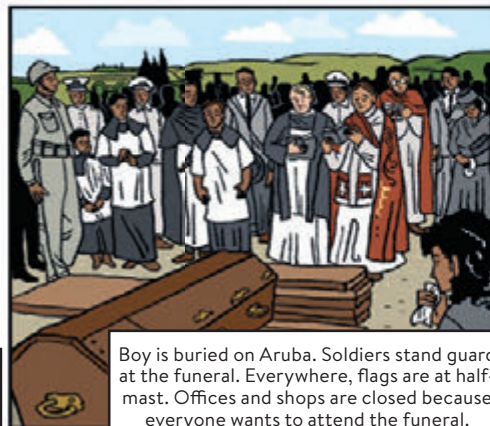
The following day, Boy is taken to the Waalsdorpervlakte near Scheveningen. Here, he is executed by a firing squad.



Doe, Nicky, and Mimi return to Aruba after the war. Without Boy...



In 1946, the Ecury family received a letter from Queen Wilhelmina. She wrote to say she thought Boy was a hero.



Boy is buried on Aruba. Soldiers stand guard at the funeral. Everywhere, flags are at half-mast. Offices and shops are closed because everyone wants to attend the funeral.



Jews in the Caribbean

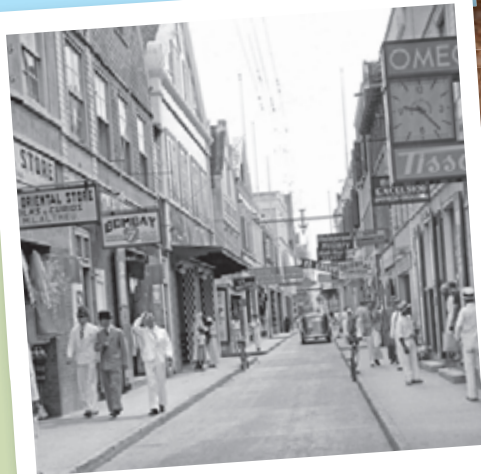


The kiosk of Chaim Kisilevich.

Jewish shops

Before the war, Chaim buys this kiosk on the Handelskade in Willemstad on Curaçao with money from his first job. He sells cigarettes and lemonade. Business is good and he opens a men's clothing store, La Buena Ventura, in Madurostraat in Punda. There are more Jewish shops nearby, such as El Louvre, La Moda, El Globo, and Casa Cohen.

During the Second World War in Europe, Jews were not safe. Many Jews lived in the Netherlands Antilles, who at that time were very concerned about their families in Europe. Sometimes, Jews from Europe tried to flee to the islands.



A shopping street in Willemstad.

Think



Do you know anyone who is Jewish or has Jewish relatives? What does he or she know about the Second World War?

Fleeing by ship

During the war, Jews from Europe try to flee by ship to, for example, America, but also to the Caribbean. On the islands, the governor initially do not allow the ships to moor. After a while, some Jewish refugees are admitted, but many of them are imprisoned on Bonaire. Or they have to leave again after three months.

There were 86 Jewish refugees on board the Cabo de Hornos.

Locked up in a camp

Ismaël is 9 years old when the war starts. He lives on Bonaire. He sees people with a German or Austrian passport being locked up in a camp. Some of them are Jews.

Read the story about the camp on page 40.

Ismaël: 'There were Germans in the camp. Soldiers guarded them. My mother cooked for the people in the camp.'

Family far away

The Jewish Paul Ackerman was 6 years old when the war starts. He lives on Curaçao.

Read what happened to the Jews in Europe on page 34.

Paul: 'During the war there was no contact with our family members in Europe. That was very difficult.'

I opposed the Nazis in the Netherlands. You can read my story in the comic from page 50 onwards.

A floor of sand

This is the interior of the synagogue, the 'Snoa', on Curaçao. A synagogue is the place where Jews pray to God and study their holy books. This synagogue is special because it has sand on the floor. This synagogue is still in use.



Did you know George Maduro was also Jewish?

After the **Nazis** conquered the Netherlands, the rights of all Jewish Dutch were gradually taken away.

EXCLUDED, PERSECUTED, MURDERED

Hitler comes to power in Germany.



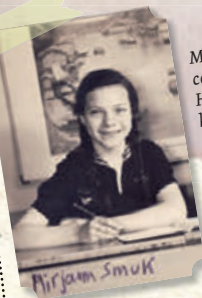
THE PARENTS OF ANNE FRANK FLEE WITH THEIR DAUGHTERS FROM GERMANY TO THE NETHERLANDS.

KRISTALLNACHT: (NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS)

ATTACK BY THE NAZIS ON THE JEWISH POPULATION IN GERMANY, SHOPS AND SYNAGOGUES ARE DESTROYED OR SET ON FIRE.

'You cannot image what we saw. Everything was smashed. Lamps torn off the ceiling, the piano broken in half. My parents' shop was completely turned upside down.'

Mirjam Weitzner-Smuk, then 8 years old



Mirjam survived five concentration camps. Her parents, sister, and brother-in-law were murdered.



SOME JEWISH CHILDREN FROM NAZI GERMANY ARE PUT ON A BOAT TO ENGLAND, OFTEN ALL ALONE WITHOUT THEIR PARENTS. IN ENGLAND THEY ARE SAFE.

ALL JEWISH CIVIL SERVANTS ARE FIRED.

DUTCH CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE TO SIGN AN **ARYAN DECLARATION**.

CAMP WESTERBORK FOR GERMAN-JEWISH REFUGEES IS BUILT.

30
JANUARY

5
DECEMBER

9 TO 10
NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

AUGUST

5
OCTOBER

21
NOVEMBER

1933

1938

1939

1940



JEWS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED AT THE SWIMMING POOL, THE BEACH OR THE PARK.

RAID IN AMSTERDAM, 427 JEWISH MEN ARE ARRESTED AND **DEPORTED** TO A **CONCENTRATION CAMP**.

EVERYONE WHO IS JEWISH, IS REGISTERED.

Geography

She failed a geography test that final day but one week later she knew exactly the location of Treblinka for just a brief moment

From: Thirty-five Tears by Ida Vos, 1985.

JEWISH CHILDREN MUST ATTEND SEPARATE JEWISH SCHOOLS.

Ida Vos (then 10 years old) had to attend the Jewish School at the Bezemstraat in The Hague. Out of the 35 children in her class, only four, including Ida, survived the war. Later, she became a writer. She wrote books and poems about the war.



SIGNS WITH 'FORBIDDEN FOR JEWS' ARE HUNG AT ZOOS, CAFES, RESTAURANTS, THEATERS, AND LIBRARIES.

'We were allowed less and less... until we weren't even allowed to live.'

Betty Goudsmit-Oudkerk

JEWS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED TO TRAVEL OR MOVE HOUSE WITHOUT PERMISSION.

10
JANUARY

22
FEBRUARY

31 MAY

1
SEPTEMBER

15
SEPTEMBER

7
NOVEMBER

1941

ALL JEWS AGED SIX AND UP HAVE TO WEAR A YELLOW JEWISH BADGE ON THEIR CLOTHES. THEY HAVE TO PAY FOR THAT BADGE THEMSELVES.

On 20 June 1942, Anne Frank wrote in her diary:
'Jews have to wear a yellow badge; Jews have to hand over their bicycles; Jews are not allowed in a car... Jews are only allowed to go shopping between 3 and 5 PM. Jews may only visit a Jewish hair-dresser... our life went on like this and we were not allowed to do this or that.'



JEWS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO GO SHOPPING BETWEEN 3 AND 5 PM. MOST PRODUCTS ARE ALREADY SOLD OUT BY THEN.

THE HOLLANDIC THEATER IN AMSTERDAM BECOMES A CENTER WHERE JEWS HAVE TO REPORT FOR **DEPORTATION**. ALREADY ARRESTED JEWS ARE DETAINED THERE.

On 25 March 1943, the Jewish Willy Alexander wrote in his war diary:
'At the moment, 1,300 people are held in the small Hollandic Theater. It is so hot and cramped that everyone keeps asking for water. Only the older women can sleep on mattresses. Those 1,300 people have to make do with only two toilets for men, and three toilets for women, and one or two washbasins.'

ANNE FRANK AND HER FAMILY GO INTO HIDING.

THE FIRST JEWS ARE CALLED UP FOR LABOR CAMPS IN GERMANY.

JEWS GET AN **IDENTITY CARD** MARKED WITH A J.



Benjamin Pais (8) and his sister Jansje (9) with the yellow Jewish badge. They were murdered in Auschwitz on 23 November 1942.



23
JANUARY

3 MAY

30 JUNE

4 JULY

6 JULY

17 JULY

20 JULY

1942

Lothar Gold had to go on the children's transport together with his mother Gerda. This photo was given to their neighbors shortly before they left. On the back it says: 'In memory of the three of us. Gold family.'

On 11 June 1943, Lothar was murdered in Sobibor. He was 12 years old.

Source: www.kampwesterbork.nl

THE LAST TRAIN FROM CAMP WESTERBORK TO AUSCHWITZ.

Up until the fatal day, it remained uncertain who would have to go. If you heard your name being called, you knew what to do. You would pack your belongings in the same suitcase, backpack or kit bag with which you had come to camp Westerbork. Then you would have to go to the main road of the camp alongside the railroad, where the long train was already waiting.

Think



Can you explain what feeling you get when hearing the word 'exclusion'?

Monument at the former site of Camp Westerbork with a rock for each murdered victim.



ANNE FRANK AND HER FAMILY ARE DISCOVERED AND DEPORTED. ONLY ANNE'S FATHER SURVIVES THE WAR.

CHILDREN'S TRANSPORT OF 1,269 CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS TO **CONCENTRATION CAMP** SOBIBOR IN POLAND.

ALL JEWS LIVING OUTSIDE THE BIG CITIES HAVE TO REPORT AT CAMP VUGHT.

THE NAZIS DECLARE AMSTERDAM 'JUDENREIN'. (THERE ARE NO MORE JEWS IN AMSTERDAM.)

LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS. DUTCH JEWS MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH GREAT LOSSES. SOME 104,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MURDERED. MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN, GRANDMOTHERS, GRANDFATHERS, BROTHERS, AND SISTERS.

6 AND 7
JUNE

29
SEPTEMBER

4
AUGUST

13
SEPTEMBER

NOVEMBER

5 MAY

1943

1944

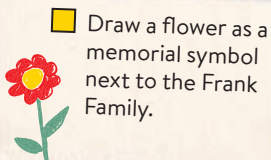
1945

UNBELIEVABLE

The fact that millions of Jewish men, women, and children were murdered in Europe during the Second World War is difficult to understand. Yet, it happened. And it is important that we learn and think about it.

Do the assignments below and use the article 'Excluded, persecuted, murdered' from the previous pages. Tick the items you have done.

- ☐ Draw a black circle around the event of 30 January 1933.



- ☐ Cross out the words NOT and FORBIDDEN.

- ☐ Underline the name of the city where Ida Vos went to school.

- ☐ Anne Frank writes that Jews had to hand over their bicycles and were no longer allowed to travel by car. Draw two foot steps next to her text.



- ☐ Circle all numbers that have something to do with children.



- ☐ Draw a candle as a memorial symbol next to Lothar Gold's story.

- ☐ Place an exclamation mark next to a text or picture that made you feel sad.



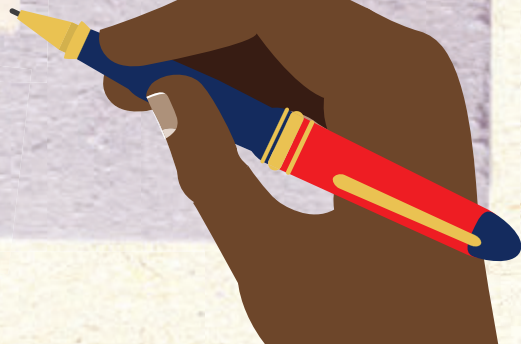
- ☐ Draw a red circle around something you really did not know it had happened.



Think



Does this page help you to think about these events?



PASS IT ON!



In every family there are stories about freedom and lack of freedom: about war, fleeing, slavery. People often pass on these stories. This way we will never forget what happened.

What are you going to do?

You are going to talk with someone about the Second World War or about fleeing, slavery, or other forms of lack of freedom. Listen carefully to the story so you can pass it on.

Who are you going to talk to?

.....

.....

TIP: If you cannot find anyone to tell you a story, look for places in your neighborhood, such as a **monument**, that has a story. Ask your teacher for help. Or watch the videos with stories from eyewitnesses of the war in the Caribbean: tiny.cc/cdbfilmpjes

What is the story about?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

How are you going to remember the story?

- ☐ I listen carefully
- ☐ I record it with my phone (first ask permission)
- ☐ I make notes
- ☐ I do it like this:

.....

.....

.....

Who are you going to tell the story?

You can color multiple boxes.

- ☐ to the class
- ☐ to my parents
- ☐ to my friends

☐ to

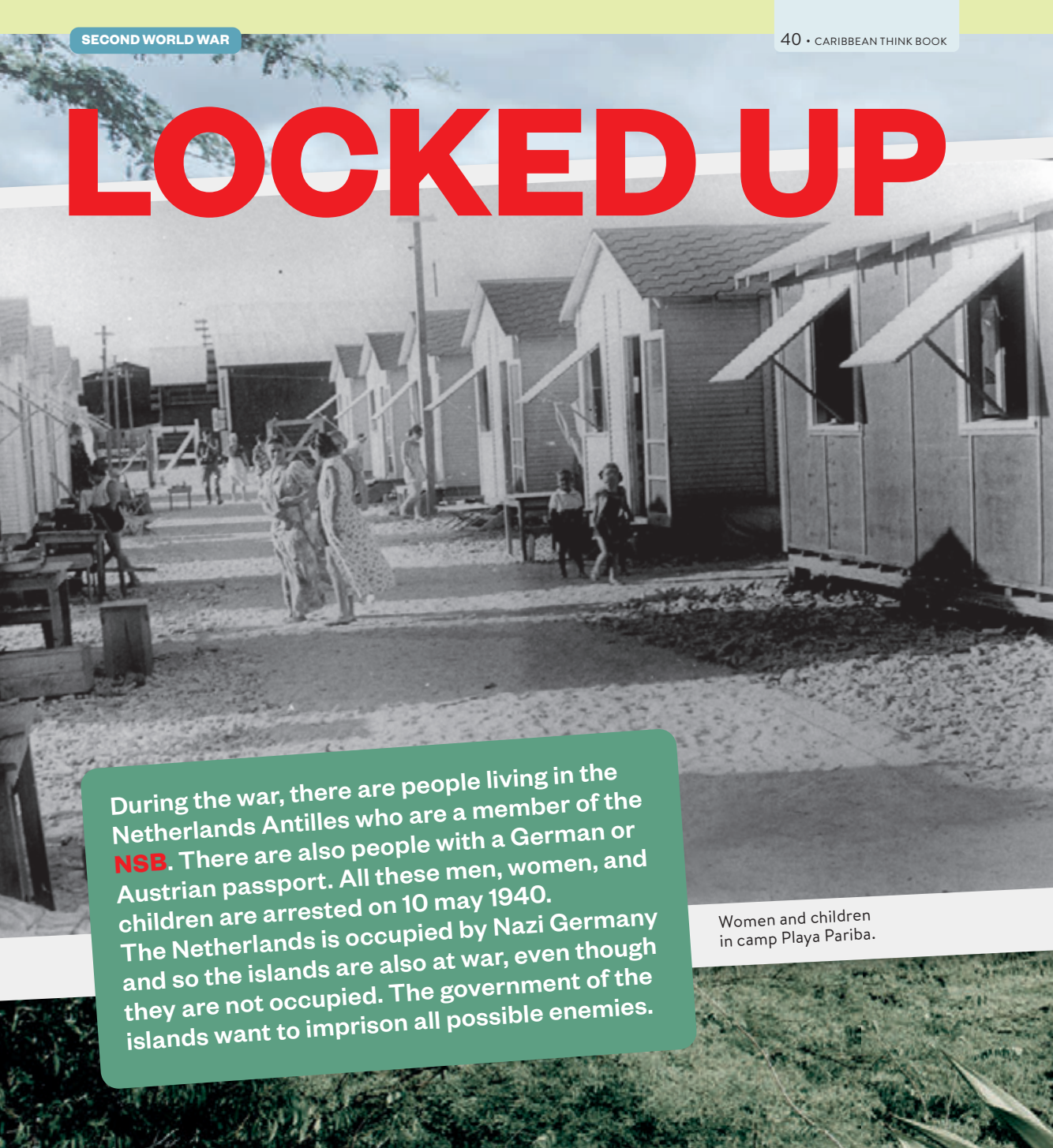
How can you best tell the story?

Color the box for the tip you want to use.

- ☐ determine the most exciting or most beautiful part of the story.
- ☐ practice telling the story a few times with a friend.
- ☐ talk quietly and take a short break now and then.
- ☐ tell the story in such a manner that the audience understands what the main character went through.

TIP: You can also write down the story, or sing it, or draw it...

LOCKED UP



During the war, there are people living in the Netherlands Antilles who are a member of the **NSB**. There are also people with a German or Austrian passport. All these men, women, and children are arrested on 10 May 1940. The Netherlands is occupied by Nazi Germany and so the islands are also at war, even though they are not occupied. The government of the islands want to imprison all possible enemies.

Women and children
in camp Playa Pariba.

2 BONAIRE

On Bonaire, the camp Playa Pariba is built in a hurry. Until that time, the arrested people are held in a school building on Bonaire and in police cells on Curaçao. As soon as the camp on Bonaire is finished, the people are sent to Playa Pariba. The camp has several small houses and larger buildings, surrounded by two high barbed wire fences. There are also watchtowers to keep an eye on the prisoners.



Camp Playa Pariba on Bonaire.

Do



PLAYA PARIBA

Look closely at the picture of camp Playa Pariba. What do you see? Does it look like a prison to you?



Guards with searchlights in the camp on Bonaire.



Governor Kasteel addresses a group refugees from the Netherlands.

ESCAPE

The camp Playa Pariba is not heavily guarded. In 1941, a group of prisoners tries to escape. They crawl underneath the barbed wire and steal a boat. When they have already passed Curaçao, they are arrested again and brought back to Bonaire.

Do



MONUMENT?

There is now nothing to be seen on the site where the camp used to be on Bonaire. Should there be a **monument** for the camp?

.....

.....

.....

Jewish refugee Charles Leider did not agree with all the rules. He wrote a letter to the camp authorities: 'I don't want to report to the police station every morning. I would also like to have a radio. In addition, I would like to be able to go outside at night sometimes.' Unfortunately, nothing changed.

ALL PACKED TOGETHER

In Europe, Jews are **persecuted** by the **Nazis**. But on Bonaire, Jews who have fled from Germany are held in the same camp as Germans who sympathize with the Nazis! Sometimes quarrels arise

between the different groups and people get bullied. To prevent violence, the Jewish residents are moved to another camp. They are sent to camp Guatemala elsewhere on Bonaire. There, they have more freedom and tranquility, but there are guards and they have to observe the camp rules. Later, they are also allowed to leave the camp.

POCKET MONEY

The camps on Bonaire cannot be compared to the camps from the Nazis in Europe. On Bonaire, the people receive some pocket money and are allowed to send and receive mail. They have a small library and a sports field. Now and then, they are allowed to take supervised walks outside the camp. However, many camp residents feel it is unfair that they have been imprisoned. There had never been a trial so they do not know exactly why they have been arrested and they cannot do anything to be released.

CAMPS IN EUROPE

During the war, Jews and other groups of people in Europe are arrested by the Nazis. They are taken to **concentration camps**, such as camp Auschwitz. There, millions of people, men, women, and children, are immediately murdered. Others have to do heavy work every day. They get very little food and there are many diseases. As a result, many of these people die after all. A total of 6 million Jews and thousands of **Roma and Sinti** are murdered during the Second World War.

Do



JUDGES

Why is it important to have judges?

.....

.....

.....



Ismael Soliano lived near the camp. Watch his story on tiny.cc/ismaelsoliano.



Prisoners of camp Playa Pariba.



Then

Jewish refugees from Germany travel by ship to America. In 1939, the ship is docked in the harbor of Cuba. They are not allowed to enter America and the ship has to return to Europe.

FLEE

Now

The coast guard has rescued a group of refugees from Venezuela. Many refugees travel by sea in broken down boats.

Every war causes people to flee. Sometimes they flee from bombings, violence, and famine. Sometimes they flee because they are **persecuted** for being who they are. That was then but it still happens today, every day. Even when there is no war, people sometimes have to leave their country.

Janina, about 15 years old.



THEN ALL ALONE

Jewish Janina Katz grows up in Poland. She is 7 years old when the war breaks out. In October 1942, she hides from the Nazis in a cellar, together with her mother and sister. They are discovered and taken to a square. There are more arrested Jews. Janina's mother tells her to run away, as fast as she can. And so she does.

She is ten years old then. Janina escapes from the **Nazis**, but she is all alone. Many people do not dare to take care of her. They are afraid to get arrested. Fortunately, she survives the war. In 1947, she comes to live on Curaçao with an uncle who has lived there for some years. The shop Janina in Punda belongs to her and her children and grandchildren.

A story from the Red Cross

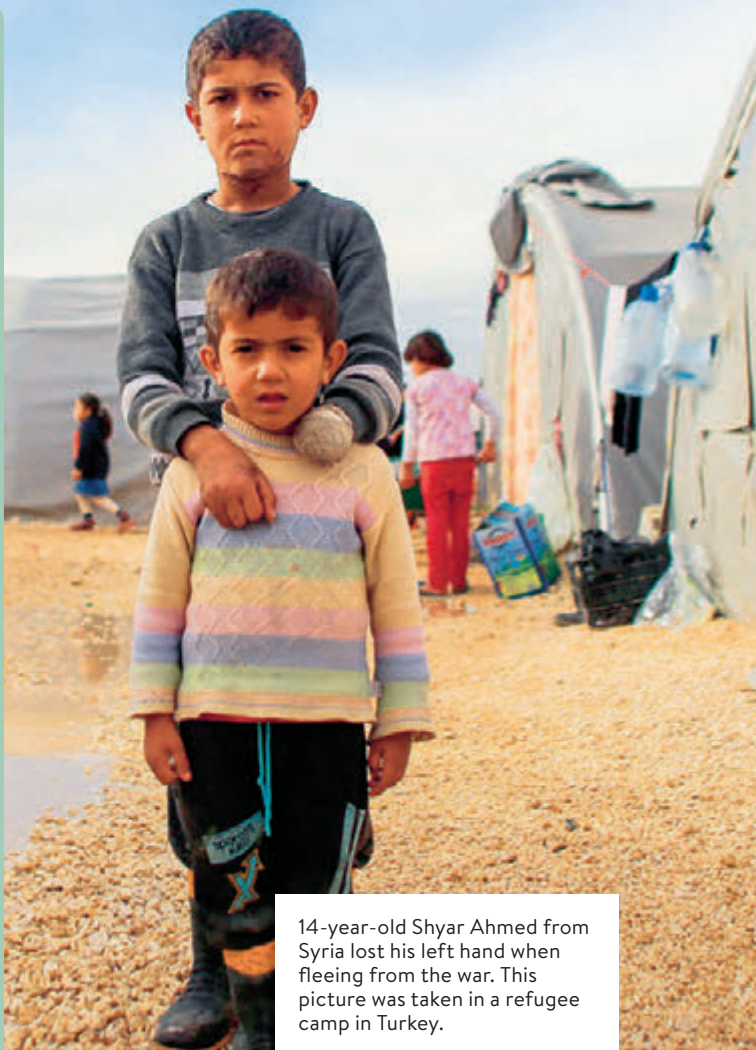
NOW NO FUTURE

This grandmother and her two grandchildren are taken in on Aruba. They fled from Venezuela. The children's parents were not allowed to stay on Aruba, they were sent back to Venezuela. The grandmother and the children are very sad because of this. Venezuela is very poor and a dictator is in power. Important things such as food and medicine are very hard to come by. That is why many people see no future in the country. They flee and often make dangerous journeys. There are many refugees from Venezuela on Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao. There is little help for them.



FLEEING FACTS

-  When Hitler came to power in Germany, many Jews fled.
-  People do not only flee from war, but also from poverty and unemployment.
-  Now, while you are reading this, almost 80 million people worldwide are fleeing.
-  Most refugees in the world originate from Syria, Afghanistan, Venezuela, South Sudan, and Myanmar.
-  More than half of all refugees are children under the age of 18.
-  Refugees from South and Central America try to reach America via the Caribbean region. On Aruba and Curaçao alone, thousands of people arrive every year.
-  In the Caribbean region, refugees often come from Venezuela, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti.



14-year-old Shyar Ahmed from Syria lost his left hand when fleeing from the war. This picture was taken in a refugee camp in Turkey.

Think



Where can you go to if you have to flee?





People who have to flee can only pack a few belongings.

Try it yourself: you only have a very short time to think. What will you take with you? It all has to fit in your suitcase!

Think



How can you carry things you cannot take with you?

What can you do against injustice?

*If an **INJUSTICE** is done to you, you are being treated unfairly.*

What do you do when you see injustice done to other people? There are people who look away. There are also people who take action, like Anton de Kom.

THIS IS ANTON DE KOM.
Anton is from
Suriname.

THIS IS
NEL DE KOM.
Nel is
from the
Netherlands.

Freedom is very important to Anton de Kom. He believes that all people should be free. In Suriname, people were not free during the time of slavery. He writes a book about it.

THESE ARE THEIR
CHILDREN: AD,
CEES, TON, AND
JUDITH DE KOM.



Anton de Kom grows up in Suriname. Anton's father was born a slave on a plantation. Not long after, slavery was abolished but there was still a lot of inequality in Suriname. For example, Anton cannot get a job after his studies because he is black. In 1921, he moves to the Netherlands. There he finds work and marries Nel. He writes about the history of Suriname and about slavery. He believes that people in the Netherlands should know what happened in Suriname. During the war, he writes for the resistance newspaper De Vonk about what was being done to the Jews. On 7 August 1944, he gets arrested by the Nazis for this. He dies in a **concentration camp** in Germany.



Talk about it: Can you stand injustice?

Take turns choosing a statement. The one who chooses, gives his opinion first. Then the other one has to answer. When the statement has been answered, cross it out. Then the other one chooses a statement. Everyone can also think of a statement themselves.

Standing up for others
is more important than
your own safety. ☐

You can use violence
against injustice. ☐

Small acts of resistance
are just as important as
big acts. ☐

If you look away from
injustice, you are
guilty too. ☐

Telling the truth is
more important than
your own safety. ☐

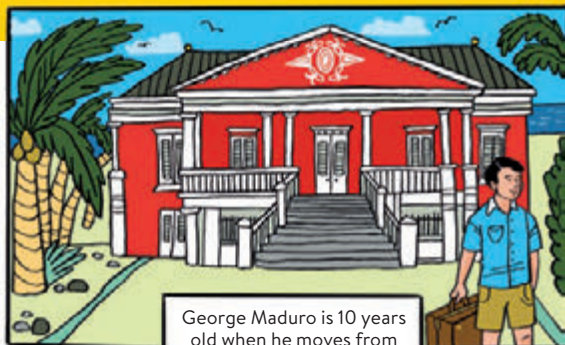
.....
.....
..... ☐

Resisting is easier
than it sounds. ☐

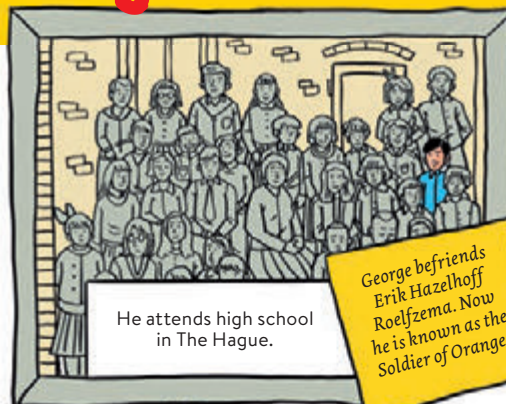
Protecting your own
family is more
important than
standing up for
strangers. ☐

.....
.....
..... ☐

Small city for a big hero



George Maduro is 10 years old when he moves from Curaçao to the Netherlands.



He attends high school in The Hague.

George befriends Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema. Now he is known as the Soldier of Orange!

George goes to study in Leiden. But then the war breaks out. German soldiers invade the Netherlands.

George fights with the Dutch army. And he immediately comes into action.

The Germans have occupied a mansion near The Hague. George and his men chase them away, with only 1 machine gun!



George has thought of a clever plan.

They keep changing the location of the weapon so the Germans think there is a large group of soldiers outside.



To enter the mansion, George and his men need to cross a bridge. The Germans have their guns aimed at the bridge. George signals his men and they run as fast as they can across the bridge. George leads the way.





George and his men conquer the mansion. Some German soldiers flee, the others are taken prisoner.



George goes into hiding and joins the resistance. In August 1940, he gets arrested. He spends two weeks in the 'Orange Hotel' (a prison). He is released but arrested again six months later. His wealthy parents can buy his freedom, but he refuses to accept their offer.



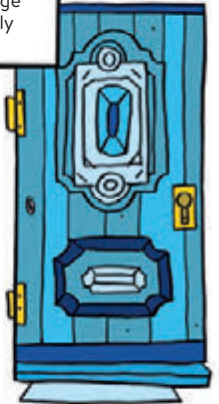
I WOULD RATHER STAY IN PRISON THAN GIVE ONE PENNY TO THE GERMANS!



He is imprisoned until 19 December 1941. Then, he could use his parents' money to travel to a safe place. But he decides to stay, to fight.



Jewish people like George have to wear a yellow Jewish badge. George refuses. He walks the street freely and does not mind the danger.



George goes into hiding at several addresses. Two German soldiers also live at one of these addresses.

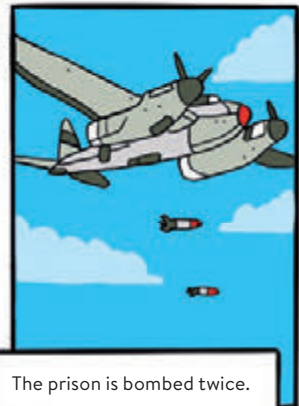


One of these Germans even sleeps in the room next to George! But George does not care.

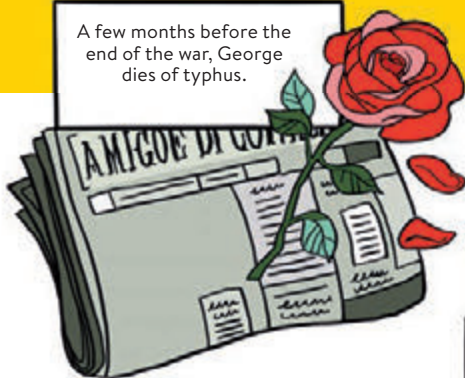
THEY'LL NEVER LOOK FOR ME HERE!



George is sent to a prison in Germany. He encourages the other prisoners in the corridor and sets a good example for them. They keep hope through him.



A few months before the end of the war, George dies of typhus.



The parents of George Maduro are deeply saddened.

All they have left are some things, such as school exercise books, his soccer shoes, and his uniform.



A friend offers the idea of creating the smallest city of the Netherlands. His parents support the project. It is called Madurodam.



Madurodam is a miniature city where Dutch buildings have been replicated in miniature. It attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Madurodam is a monument for George. This way he will never be forgotten. After his death, George is awarded the highest military honor.



**THE MILITARY
WILLIAM ORDER!**



On Curaçao, you can see George Maduro's birth house.

THE END

WE ARE FREE!

At the beginning of 1941, American President Roosevelt was worried about what was happening in the world. At that time, the United States had not yet joined the war.

President Roosevelt then held a speech about freedom. He talked about Four Freedoms that he thought were very important. Every person in the world should have these to be able to really live in freedom.



FREEDOM?

Read the stories of these people. They were not free. Luckily, they are now. They want to tell their story. Draw a line to match their story to the type of freedom.



Adam is from Syria.

There is war in that country. Adam is very afraid of the bombs. He has to flee and he doesn't see his father for a long time. Adam now lives in the Netherlands, in freedom.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

You are allowed to express your opinion, even if you do not agree with the government.

FREEDOM OF WANT

You do not have to worry about food, clothes or a house.

FREEDOM OF WORSHIP

You are allowed to believe what you want.

FREEDOM FROM FEAR

You are safe, you can sleep peacefully.

Tineke is from the Netherlands East Indies, now Indonesia. In 1941, Japanese soldiers **occupy** the country. For years, Tineke is locked up in her own house together with 17 family members. They are not allowed to go out to buy food and they are suffering from terrible hunger. They even eat the snails in their garden. Tineke survives the war.



Danial is from Iran. There are very strict rules in that country that are determined by the leaders. Anyone who does not listen or who expresses their opinion out loud, can even get the death penalty. It is too unsafe for Danial and his family. They have fled. Now they live in the Netherlands, in freedom.



Mieke is Jewish. During the Second World War, she is arrested and imprisoned in a **concentration camp**, together with her parents and sister. Only because she is Jewish. Mieke survives the war.

Watch



These people know what it is like to not be free. They want to share their story with you. You can ask them your questions. Go to www.wijzijnvrij.org

Think



What is the most important freedom to you?

HUMAN RIGHTS

Eleanor Roosevelt is the wife of the American President during the Second World War. In 1944, she visited the American soldiers on Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao. During her travels in the war, she saw plenty of misery. After the war and together with others, she writes a text about human rights. Almost all countries in the world agree with this text. Unfortunately, not all of them observe the agreements made. Still, it is very important these agreements exist.



KNITTING SWEATERS for NETHERLANDS

The residents of the Caribbean islands deeply sympathize with the people in occupied the Netherlands. The people there have a hard time. There is lack of food and warm clothes in the Netherlands. The army of the **Allied forces** also need money to be able to defeat the **Nazis**. In the Caribbean, everything is being done to help.

These stamps are more expensive than usual.
The extra money is spent on help for the Netherlands.

BUY AN AIRPLANE

People on Aruba save their money to buy an airplane to fight the Nazis. For two guilders and 50 cents you can buy a lottery ticket to win 5,000 guilders. Nowadays that would be worth about 17,000 American dollars! What's even more important: with this ticket you support the Spitfire fund. The money from the fund is used to buy a Spitfire airplane. It is named: Aruba.



Chris Engels, founder of SANOC
(Support for Dutch war victims
Curaçao)

‘When I went to collect money myself, I wanted to skip a shabby hut here and there, but the people came out and said: “Dokter, mi no ta bon pa un fwerte pa e pober Ulandesnan?” - “Doctor, am I not good enough to give some money to those poor Dutch?”’

Some people want to help the Netherlands in the war with more than just money. They join the Dutch army as volunteers. The Curaçao women in this picture are ready to go to Australia. They go to help the Allied forces in the battle against the Japanese.



Ena dressed up for her performance.

DANCING AND SPORTS

Concerts, dance parties, and sports activities are organized everywhere. Ena Dankmeijer-Maduro helps to organize the activities of the Curaçao Sports Club. There are sports matches and dancing until the early hours. Due to the blackout, there is not much else to do anyway.

The money raised goes to charities that help the Allied forces and Dutch people in the war. Ena and her friends arrange for the decorations and tasty snacks. They also frequently give performances.

SAVING BOTTLE CAPS

Bottle caps, chocolate bar wrappers: everything is saved for the American army. At the time, the caps and wrappers were made of tin. This can be reused. People received a little money for their collected caps and wrappers. And they gave that money to the soldiers.

He Comes FIRST!

CHOCOLATE and COCOA
Fight with Our Forces Around the World

If you donate to sometimes out of South's Chocolate and Cocoa, here's why:

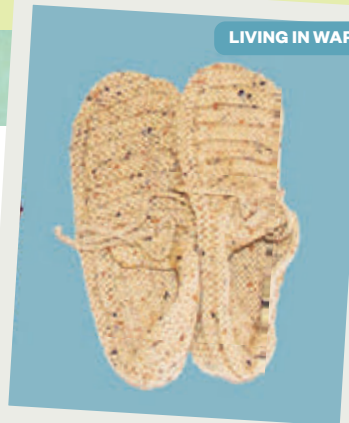
- 1. These Chocolate Bars make up U.S. Army Emergency Rations D.
- 2. A Chocolate Bar is the Army's top sugar in U.S. Army Field Ration R.
- 3. A Cocoa Chocolate Powder is included in U.S. Army Field Ration U.
- 4. Chocolate Bars (Baton) (B) are included in U.S. Army Field Ration U.
- 5. Chocolate Bars are used in Indian, Indian, and Indian.
- 6. Chocolate Bars (B) Chocolate and Cocoa are the most used by the millions of men in the world of our Navy, Army, and Marine of War Veterans and Ship Service Units all over the globe.
- 7. Chocolate Bars and Cocoa are the most used by the millions of men in the world of our Navy, Army, and Marine of War Veterans and Ship Service Units all over the globe.
- 8. Chocolate Bars and Cocoa are the most used by the millions of men in the world of our Navy, Army, and Marine of War Veterans and Ship Service Units all over the globe.
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- 14. Chocolate Bars and Cocoa are the most used by the millions of men in the world of our Navy, Army, and Marine of War Veterans and Ship Service Units all over the globe.
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Chocolate is a FIGHTING FOOD!

BACK THE ATTACK . . . BUY U. S. WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

KNITTING

Warms clothes are needed for the Netherlands. Of course, people in the Caribbean do not have any in their closets. That is why they take up knitting. A lot of knitting! Blankets, shawls, sweaters. Boxes filled with knitwear are sent to the Netherlands. Most of the people on the islands have never held a knitting needle before!



GIVING MONEY

Employees of Antillean companies start raising money. They use it to start a foundation. With the money, the foundation can buy weapons needed for the fight against Nazi Germany. This way, the people on the Caribbean islands try to help the Netherlands.



LOTS OF MONEY

On Aruba alone, (the modern day equivalent of) 3,1 million guilders is raised. Many thank you letters arrive from the Netherlands. The mayor of Zutphen, for example, writes:



*'It is just too good to be true.
And all that is a present
from Dutch people we do
not know and who live
so far away.'*

Monument on Curaçao in gratitude for all help received.

ROYAL VISITORS

The Dutch royal family is very pleased with the help given to the Netherlands by the Caribbean islands. In 1942, Prince Bernhard visits Curaçao and Aruba. Later, Princess Juliana also pays a visit. She later becomes the queen of the Dutch Kingdom. The Prince and Princess are welcomed on the islands with great enthusiasm.

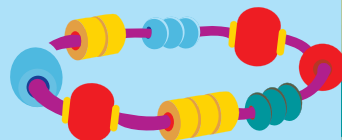


Princess Juliana on Sint Maarten.

After her visit to the islands, Princess Juliana said:
'I was deeply touched by the warmth with which the people welcomed me.'

10 TIPS to HELP someone else

During the war, people from the Caribbean islands help the people in the Netherlands. They raise money and knit sweaters. Fortunately, there is no war here now, but there are still people having a hard time. It feels good to do something for someone else. And you can do that in many different ways.

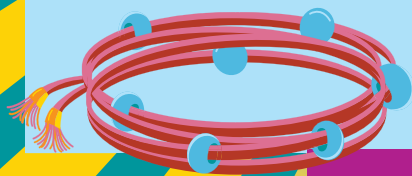


- 1 Craft something beautiful, like a bracelet. Sell it and donate the money to charity.
- 2 You may know someone who could use some help. You can do their shopping or help with the cleaning.
- 3 Organize a market with second-hand goods. Donate the proceeds to charity.
- 4 Donate your spare time and help out as a volunteer with an organization near you, such as the food bank.
- 5 Bring your toys or clothes, which are still good but you do not need anymore, to a charitable organization. It can then be given to other children who can still use it.
- 6 Organize your class, and work together. Come up with a fun activity and find a sponsor.
- 7 Organize a car wash with your class. Sell tickets for a wash and give the proceeds to a charity.

Can you think of more tips?

Write them below:

- 8
- 9
- 10





ALMIRA (12 YEARS OLD)
Kolegio Santa Famia

ALEYNA (12 YEARS OLD)
Maria Immaculata Lyceum

DANIELA (11 YEARS OLD)
Joan Mauritschool

WHAT DO YOU KNOW!

Daniela, Almira, and Aleyana discuss the Second World War, commemorating, and freedom. They answer questions that make you think.

How did the islanders notice there was a war in 1940-1945?

Aleyna: People who had children or other relatives in the Netherlands worried about their safety.



ALMIRA

Almira: There was a blackout on the island. When the sun went down, there should be no more lights visible. From cars, for example, or in the houses. Everything had to be darkened so that the Germans could not bomb us.

Do you know a story about the war, perhaps from your family?

Aleyna: Not from my family. I know the story of George Maduro. He fought for us in the Netherlands. I read a comic about him. He was a good person.

Think



Read the comic about George on page 28. What do you think was his bravest act?



ALEYNA



DANIELA

Were the people on the islands free during the war?

Almira: I first thought children could not go to school, but they could.

Daniela: You could not do very much in the evenings because the lights had to be turned off. That does not feel free.

Do you feel free?

Daniela: Yes, I feel free on Curaçao. We can go to school and are free to learn and think what we want. We can also buy clothes and play.

Think



Do you feel free? Or not? How can you tell?

Which freedom do you definitely not want to lose?

Aleyna: The freedom to see my mother.

Almira: The freedom to play outside. In some countries that is not allowed.

Think



Which freedom would you not want to lose?

Is everyone equally free?

Daniela: Due to COVID-19, I cannot see my family who live on Aruba. We cannot visit now because the border is closed. I find that very unpleasant.

Think

Are there people who are not free now? Who are they?

.....

.....

.....

'Everything had to be darkened so the Germans could not bomb us'

Do you think it is important to commemorate the Second World War? Why?

Almira: Yes, because it is part of our history. We should never forget it. It has also brought us freedom. And our people also fought for it, such as George Maduro.

Think

Write the name of someone from the islands who also fought for freedom.

.....

.....

.....

.....

Would you also like to participate in a commemoration? Why?

Aleyna: Yes, I would like that because many people died and we can then remember them.

Think

And you? Would you attend a commemoration? ☐ Yes ☐ No. Why?

.....

.....

Should commemorations only be about war or can they also be about other events? Why?

.....

.....

Does history affect who you are?

Almira: Knowing things from history makes you view the world differently. I now know why our oil was so important in the war. It also helped for our freedom.

Think

Which event from history do you find important to commemorate?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Freedom according to...



**HENSLEY
MEULENS**

Hensley Meulens is a famous baseball player. He was born on Curaçao. Hensley played in America and for the Dutch team. How does he feel about freedom?

'I have been given the freedom as an athlete to show my talents on the sports field. The islands are much smaller than America, however, so you are less free to put your talents to good use.'

☐

'I live in America but it still remains a foreign country to me. In Curaçao I feel really at home and completely free.'

☐

'Being free is important, but in sports you also have to learn how to behave. You have to respect each other.'

☐

CAN YOU MAKE THE MATCH?

① Below are the freedoms that fit Hensley's statements. Write the correct freedom under the statement that matches it.

***You can become
who you want to be.***

***You have a place
where you feel free.***

***You take the freedom
of others into account.***

② Make a top 3 of Hensley's statement. Number 1 is the most important to you and number 3 is the least important. Write the numbers next to the statements.

③ Is your top 3 the same as your classmate's? What are the differences?



What are your thoughts on: **FREEDOM**

We live in freedom. In many countries that is not possible.

I'm so happy we can celebrate Dia di Rincon!

Freedom can be celebrated in many ways. Bonaire, **Dia di Rincon**, 30 April.



What are your thoughts on these statements? Do you agree or disagree? Write your answer on the dotted lines.



1 Freedom is the same for everyone.

I agree / I disagree, because...

.....

.....

.....

2 Freedom is the most important thing for a person.

I agree / I disagree, because...

.....

.....

.....

3 In order to feel free, you need money.

I agree / I disagree, because...

.....

.....

.....

Compare your answers with those of a classmate.

Do you agree with each other?

Why or why not?

Questions about freedom

What are your thoughts on freedom? Play this game and exchange your thoughts.

Make groups of 3 or 4 children. Cut the cards on the opposite page from one of the books. Put the cards side by side so you can see all questions. First read the game rules. Then answer the questions.

GAME RULES

- One of your group selects a question and reads it to the others.
- First think about the question for yourself.
- Then talk about your answer in your group. Everyone gets their turn.
- Listen carefully to each other. Let the other finish before you respond.
- Try not to answer with only a yes or a no. Explain to the others why you think what you think.
- Ask an extra question if something is not clear, such as: 'Can you give an example of that?'
- Are your answers similar or very different? It's about what you think, so there are no wrong answers.
- Now someone else from your group can choose a question and read it out loud. Keep it up until all questions have been read and discussed.

TIP: If you don't want to cut the cards from the book, you can also copy them.





**IS IT IMPORTANT
TO CELEBRATE
FREEDOM ON 5 MAY?**

**WHICH
COMMEMORATIONS
DO YOU KNOW? AND
WHICH DO YOU THINK IS
THE MOST IMPORTANT?**

**DO YOU THINK
THE ABOLITION OF
SLAVERY SHOULD BE
CELEBRATED EACH
YEAR?**

**IS IT IMPORTANT
THAT FLAG DAY IS
A HOLIDAY?**

**ARE ADULTS
MORE FREE THAN
CHILDREN?**

**WHICH FREEDOM
FIGHTER DO YOU
THINK IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT ONE?**

**CHOOSE FROM: GEORGE MADURO /
TULA / ANTON DE KOM / BOY ECURY /
SOMEONE ELSE**

**CAN YOU BE FREE
WHEN YOU ARE
POOR OR HUNGRY?**

**IS IT A BAD THING IF WE
FORGET THE SECOND
WORLD WAR?**



War glossary

Allied forces • England, Russia, Canada, the United States, and some smaller countries in Europe. They fought together against Germany, Italy, and Japan during the Second World War.

Ally • A country that fights together with you.

Aryan declaration • A form that civil servants (everyone who works for the government) had to fill in, stating that they were not Jewish. Jews could not fill this in and as a result lost their jobs.

Censorship • Omitting text or images that could provide information to the enemy during a war.

Concentration camp • A place where people are held prisoner.

Deportation • To take someone to a labor camp or concentration camp.

Identity Card • A card that everyone in the Netherlands had to carry during the German occupation with their name and address.

Merchant staff • People who worked on merchant or trading vessels during the Second World War.

Monument • A structure or statue created to ensure people will never forget a certain event.

Nazi • Abbreviation of National Socialist in the German language, the followers of Hitler.

NSB • National Socialist Movement. A political party for Dutch people who agreed with Hitler.

Occupation • When a country is taken by an army or a group that does not belong there.

Peace operation • Military action in an area of armed conflict to restore or keep the peace.

Persecute • To use violence against or imprison a particular group.

Raid • Sudden attack by the army or the police to arrest people.

Resistance • Group of people working together to oppose the occupying force.

Roma en Sinti • Groups of people that live in various countries in Europe and that have their own language and culture. They used to be called 'gypsies', but since this is an offensive term (meaning 'nomadic bandits'), it is no longer used.

Torpedo • Bomb that is launched from a ship, a submarine, or an airplane.

COLOPHON

© EDITION

The National Committee for
4 and 5 May - Amsterdam 2021

ISBN 978 90 77294 32 1

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND CHIEF EDITOR
Sarah Feirabend

EDITING AND ADVICE

Cristan van Emden and Julia
Sarbo, National Committee
for 4 and 5 May

IDEA, TEXT, AND EDITING

Patsboem! Educatief

RESEARCH, ADVICE, AND DISTRIBUTION

Stichting de Cultuur
Kameleon, Saskia Luckmann
and Yvonne Willemsen

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Suzanne Hertogs and
Anne de Laat (Ontwerphaven)

ILLUSTRATIONS

COVER, 8 T/M 13, 19, 28 T/M 31, 50 T/M 53

Karida van Bochove

PRINTING

PrintSupport4U

Environmentally friendly printing materials

IMAGES

The Netherlands Government
Information Service - Martijn Beekman
George Maduro family archives 20th
Century Fox, National Archives Aruba,
Brian Mead of www.handskrabblefarm.com, Alamy Stockphoto - Bygone
collection, Knipselkrant Curaçao,
Antilliaans Dagblad, www.antillesatwar.com, Oorlogsgraven Stichting, Beeldbank
WO2, NIOD, The Netherlands Institute
for Sound and Vision, Mongui Maduro
Library, National Archives Curaçao,
Berber van Beek - www.studiorootz.com,
Education Workgroup of foundation
Loods24, Jewish Historic Museum
Amsterdam, Collection Spaarnestad,
City Archives Rotterdam, Mirjam
Weitzner-Smuk, National Image Bank
- Harry Kors Photography, Bert Vos -
www.hetkoffertjevanidavos.nl, Getty
Images - Anne Frank Fonds Basel,
Collection National Monument Camp
Vught, Jeanette van Ditzhuizen, Skyview
Bonaire, Hollands Hoogte - AP,
AdobeStock - Reuters/Stringer, Red
Cross, Robert van Dongen

TRANSLATION

Jacqueline van Zuijlen (English
translation), Chantal Cooper (English
corrections), Diana Domacassé-Lebacs
(Papiamentu translation), Jeroen Heuvel
(Papiamentu corrections), Desiree
Correa (Papiamentu translation), Lilian
Semeleer (Papiamentu corrections)

WITH THANKS TO

Biblioteca Nacional Aruba, Anja van
Bergen, Biblioteka Nashonal Kòrsou
Frank Martinus Arion, Marjan Brouwers,
Lisa Davis-Burnett - The Daily Herald
St. Maarten, Jeanette van Ditzhuijzen,
Robert van Dongen, Giselle Ecury,
Walter Hellebrand, Raymond R.
Hernandez, Jewish Cultural Historical
Museum Curaçao, Rosa de Jong,
Anne-Roos de Kort-Reich, Caspar
Martens, Hensley Meulens, Philipsburg
Jubilee Library, Marlon Reina, Red
Cross, Michèle Russel-Capriles, Riet
and Arthur Sealy, Ted Schouten, Sentro
di Barrio Otrobanda - Almira, Alenya,
Daniela, Myrthe Verhulst, Bert Vos,
Mirjam Weitzner-Smuk, Mike Willemse,
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**The National Committee
for 4 and 5 May**
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89
1018 VR Amsterdam
Nederland

info@4en5mei.nl
www.4en5mei.nl
www.tweedewereldoorlog.nl





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